

# Borough of Lortwithiel

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I herewith present my Report for the year 1920

Population:- At 1911 Census-1373  
Estimated, 1920-1390

Chief occupation of inhabitants:- Agricultural & commercial.

## VITAL STATISTICS

Births:- Males 13 Females 8

Deaths:- do. 11 do. 11

Deaths under 1 year:- 4

Birth rate - 16.07 per 1000

Death rate - 16.54 per 1000

Causes of death:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Cancer	1	1
Organic Heart Disease	1	-
Bronchitis	1	4
Pneumonia	-	1
Congenital Debility	2	1
Violence	1	-
Other defined diseases	4	4
Cause ill-defined or unknown	1	-

Poor Law Relief:- The number in receipt of relief was 26 as compared with 11 during the preceding year.

There being no local Hospital or any other form of gratuitous medical treatment, cases requiring institutional treatment are sent to Hospitals in neighbouring towns, the nearest being six miles distant. The number of such cases is comparatively small.







WATER:- The source of the local supply is a spring about two miles from the Town, and this has given a constant and good supply. There has been no evidence of contamination or of any plumbo-solvent action.

RIVERS AND STREAMS:- The River Fowey is polluted by the town sewers. No action has been taken to check this.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE:- With the exception of a few isolated dwellings outside the drainage area, all houses are connected with sewers discharging into the River Fowey, which is tidal. There are five outlets into the River in connection with the system. The arrangements for the disposal of slop-waters are, in places, far from satisfactory. I have brought the matter before the Council and trust that steps will be taken towards improvement.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION:- As I noted in my Report last year the conditions under this heading are, in places, far from satisfactory and, as far as I am aware, there has been no improvement. At the request of the Council I made a tour of inspection of the closets in the Borough during August 1913 and as a result of my observations, made certain recommendations, very few, if any, of which have been carried out.





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There are approximately 350 closets, 200 of which have no flushing-tank. During the past year one privy has been converted to the water-carriage system but no flush was fitted. It would have been a simple matter to pipe the town water to this house and, had it been done, the occupier would have fitted a flush.

SCAVENGING:- A weekly collection of house-refuse is made by two men with a horse and cart, the of which is carried to a tip two miles from the town. Movable receptacles are in general use.

SANITARY INSPECTION:- Accompanied by the Sanitary Inspector I have made periodic visits to dwelling houses, bakeries, dairies, cowsheds and slaughter-houses. I investigated two cases of overcrowding and reported the same to the Council who decided to take action in the matter. Overcrowding does not exist to any extent but, where it does, the difficulty of dealing with it is such that it becomes practically insurmountable. The reason for this is that there are no larger and available houses to accommodate the families concerned. During November 1919 I condemned two houses as unfit for habitation and at the same time recommended their demolition. Both these houses are still occupied.





The only premises that can be controlled by Byelaws or regulations are the Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops.

I regret that the Council has not yet any Byelaws in force. These were adopted on April 6th. 1920 and, I am informed, were forwarded to the Minister of Health soon after for confirmation.

OTHER SANITARY MATTERS:- During the year two buildings have been adopted as Cinema Halls and steps were taken, in the case of one, to improve the ventilation. No action was necessary with regard to the other as, previous to its being used for this purpose, the means of ventilation were improved.

I have urged upon the Council the advisability of having the roads tar-sprayed. This was not done last year but I understand that steps are being with a view to its being done this year.

The cleaning of the streets is carried out in a satisfactory manner. A complaint that North Street was not, as a routine, swept for two days after Cattle-market day was dealt with and the matter has been adjusted.

SCHOOL:- The sanitary condition and water supply of the Council School are satisfactory.

Owing to the prevalence of Whooping-cough I closed the Infants' School on Jan. 15th. for a period of four weeks.





## FOOD

MILK SUPPLY:- This is good and sufficient.

On my recommendation the practise of delivering milk in uncovered cans has been stopped.

It has not been necessary to take any action as to tuberculous milk.

The Cowsheds on the whole are not kept in a satisfactory condition. With one or two exceptions they are badly drained and not sufficiently clean. I have made this a matter for a special Report to the Council.

No action has been taken under the Milk (Mothers & Children) Act.

MEAT:- (1) The Sanitary Inspector and myself have made periodic inspections of carcasses. No disease has been noted. All the slaughter-houses are too near occupied dwelling houses. Structurally they are far from perfect especially as regards the floors and walls. On Feb. 1st of this year I presented a special Report to the Council dealing with this matter. I made certain recommendations as a result of which many improvements have been made.







(1) There is no Public Abattoir and, although I regard the need of such as urgent, I realise at the same time the great economic difficulties in the way of its attainment.

As I pointed out in my Report last year, methodical inspection of meat is not possible with the staff available.

(2) No action has been taken under Section 117 of the Public Health Act, 1875 or Section 47 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1901.

(3) No expenses have been incurred for Tuberculosis.

	<u>In 1914</u>	<u>In Jan. 1915</u>	<u>In Dec. 1914</u>
Salaries.-	-	-	-
Lighting -	3	3	3
Food -	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

(4) Notes:- It has not been deemed necessary to take any action with regard to animal food.

The sanitary condition of the butcherhouses is not very satisfactory and I have asked this matter for a special Report to the Council.

Some improvements have been made during the year.

(5) No cases of food poisoning have come to my notice.







## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There has only been one case of notifiable disease during the year. This was a case of Scarlet Fever which originated, not in the Borough, but was introduced outside it.

Of the non-notifiable diseases there was, at the beginning of the year, a large amount of Whooping Cough and earlier a small epidemic of Measles. There has also been a number of cases of Impetigo among the school children.

The supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin is dealt with by the local practitioners.

There have been no cases of Acrophallitis, Impetigo or 'rotten' cases of Scarlet Fever.

I am sure it has not been necessary to resort to measures aimed at eradicating the disease in the Borough.

I have done no primary vaccinations or revaccinations under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations 1917.

There have been a few sporadic cases of Influenza but nothing in the nature of an epidemic. With the consent of the Council I had some leaflets distributed among the inhabitants dealing with the prevention of, and means of protection from, Influenza.

At the request of the Minister of Health I also circularised the retailers of shaving-brushes pointing out the danger of contracting Anthrax from Japanese brushes.





There are no facilities available in the district for the cleansing<sup>of</sup> verminous persons and their belongings.

As far as I am aware the notification of tuberculosis is carried out satisfactorily.

LATENCY AND CHILD WELFARE:- No cases of puerperal fever, ophthalmia neonatorum, epidemic diarrhoea or poliomyelitis have come to my notice.

There is, I think, a genuine need for more instruction of mothers on the care of their children. The difficulty is to find those willing to undertake the work. The only person in the district who has some direct and some knowledge of health matters.

RECOMMENDATIONS:-

- (1) The staff consisting of the sanitarian and vector control officer, in conjunction with the streets and sanitary committee.
- (2) There is no hospital accommodation available for infectious diseases.
- (3) The only local order at present in force is the Dairies, Cowsheds and Piggeries Regulations, 1901.





HOUSING

(1) GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT

- (1) Total number of houses 34  
Number for working classes 20  
New houses erected for working classes  
or in course of erection Nil.  
(2) (a) Shortage of 13  
(b) Building contemplated  
(3) No increase of population during the year and  
none contemplated.

(11) WORKING CLASSES

- (1) Does not exist to any extent  
(2) The only working class housing is the  
rent of 1/6 per week is estimated to be 1/6.  
(3) (4) see under 'Sanitary Inspection'

(111) PLANNING OF HOUSING

- (1) (a) The general standard is poor  
(b) Want of adequate sanitary arrangements,  
through ventilation and good drainage of  
repair generally.  
(c) Many of the defects are due to the owners  
being unwilling to spend money on their  
property.  
(d) No general action has been taken under the  
Public Health or Housing Acts.





(3) No special action, as far as I am aware, has been taken to secure improved management of property by owners.

(4) There are no special conditions affecting housing as regards water supply, closet accommodation and refuse disposal.

(IV) UNHEALTHY AREAS:- Under the Housing Act, Part I, certain small areas have been specified as unhealthy but no action has yet been taken.

(V) BYELAWS:- There are none yet in force.

(VI) REPORT AND MISCELLANEOUS:- On August 31st. 1914, Mrs. Gent, a representative of the Minister, visited the town and stated that, in her opinion, a number of the houses concerned could be brought up to the required standard by certain alterations to the houses themselves and their surroundings.





APPENDICES

1-GENERAL

(1) Estimated population	1300
(2) General death-rate	16.84 per 1000
(3) Death-rate from tuberculosis	Nil.
(4) Infantile mortality	3.06 per 1000
(5) Number of dwelling houses of all classes	386
(6) Number of working-class dwelling houses	260
(7) Number of new working-houses erected	Nil.

2--UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES

I - INSPECTION

(1) Total number inspected	50
(2) Number inspected & recorded	Nil.
(3) Number found unfit for habitation	0
(4) Number not in all respects reasonably fit	7

II - Number rendered fit in consequence of informal action. Nil.

III- ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

A. Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning &c, Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	Nil.
(2) Number rendered fit	
(a) by owners	Nil.
(b) by Local Authority	Nil.
(3) Number of Closing Orders	Nil.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1) Number of notices served requiring defects to be remedied.	Nil.
(2) Number of defects remedied	
(a) by owners	Nil.
(b) by Local Authority	Nil.

C. Proceedings under sections 17 & 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c, Act 1909

(1) With a view to the making of Closing Orders.	Nil.
(2) Number of Closing Orders made	Nil.
(3) Number rendered fit.	Nil.
(4) Number of Demolition Orders	Nil.
(5) Number demolished	Nil.



# APPENDICES

## I - GENERAL

- (1) Estimated population
- (2) General death-rate
- (3) Death-rate from tuberculosis
- (4) Infantile mortality
- (5) Number of dwelling houses of all classes
- (6) Number of working-class dwelling houses
- (7) Number of new working-houses erected

1901  
18.84 per cent  
Nil.  
1.04 per cent  
Nil.  
Nil.  
Nil.

## II - DWELLING-HOUSES

### I - INSPECTION

- (1) Total number inspected
- (2) Number inspected & reported
- (3) Number found unfit for habitation
- (4) Number not in all respects reasonably fit

20  
Nil.  
Nil.

### II - HOUSES REPORTED FIT IN CONSEQUENCE OF INSPECTION

Nil.

### III - HOUSES WHICH REQUIRE REPAIR

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in possession of which holders have served notices requiring repairs
- (2) Number of houses in possession of which holders have served notices requiring repairs
- (a) by owner
- (b) by local authority
- (c) Number of houses in possession of which holders have served notices requiring repairs

Nil.  
Nil.  
Nil.  
Nil.  
Nil.

### IV - PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

- (1) Number of notices served requiring repairs to be remedied
- (2) Number of notices served requiring repairs to be remedied
- (a) by owner
- (b) by local authority

Nil.  
Nil.  
Nil.

### V - PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 17 OF THE DRAINAGE ACTS

- (1) With a view to the removal of obstructions
- (2) Number of obstructions removed
- (3) Number of obstructions removed
- (4) Number of obstructions removed
- (5) Number of obstructions removed

Nil.  
Nil.  
Nil.  
Nil.  
Nil.



3 - UNHEALTHY AREAS

See under 'Housing' section (IV)

4. There are no byelaws in force.

5. Staff engaged in housing work:-

The Council

The Sanitary Inspector

The M.O.H.

*Fredk. H. Rudge*

Medical Officer of Health.



See under 'Housing' section (IV)

4. There are no dwellings in force.

5. Staff engaged in housing work:-

The Council

The Housing Inspector

The L.O.R.

*Frank H. Smith*

